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MINERS GIVE INFORMATION  
ON GORNY SLASK DEVELOPMENT

Recently, a number of the Polish miners from Upper Silesia who were en route to rest homes in the Beskids encountered German-speaking health resort patients in a small mountain village in the vicinity of Bielski. The latter were German miners from the Waldenburg Region who likewise were granted paid vacations in the Beskids. In a secluded mountain inn on Klimczok Mountain an interesting discussion arose which revealed a number of things.

In all branches of Slask industry the highest posts are occupied by Russians, and Polish engineers and technicians are being increasingly supplanted even at intermediate levels. Radio Warsaw recently reported the dismissal from Slask plants of 300 Poles who were said to have failed in their managerial positions. They were replaced by Russians who only inquire about the norm and productivity, and are little concerned with the political opinions of their subordinates. Persons who exceed their quotas can occasionally even risk speaking a German word and receive the same privileges as the Poles. To maintain high morale among the Waldenburg miners, and to dissuade them from migrating to Germany, preparation is even being made at present for the erection of German schools in the Waldenburg area.

In Gorny Slask work is proceeding very energetically. In 1950, coal output rose to 120 million tons, thus surpassing the former top annual output of 112 million tons in 1944. Poland may keep only about 20 percent of its coal production; the remainder is exported to procure foreign exchange.

Production figures of the large iron and steel works are not known; however, it is known that most of them have made extensive changes in their old production programs. The Koscieszki Metallurgical Plant in Chorzow (Koenigshuette) produces principally armor plate; the Baildon Metallurgical Plant in Katowice produces artillery pieces and shells; the Bismarckhuette makes rails and submarine equipment. The Donnersmarckhuette has specialized in ship parts and torpedoes.

Iron ore for blast furnaces, formerly imported chiefly from Sweden, now comes from the Krivoy Rog ore deposits (Poland imported Soviet ore even before the war).

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It is well known that at the end of the war all the Gorny Slask plants were virtually intact. Only the bomb-damaged fuel plants in Odertal, Slawenzitz, and Blechkammer were dismantled by the Soviets. All other plants were immediately put into operation in 1945, especially the modern installations constructed by the Germans at the beginning of the war, such as the Presswerke in Labedy.

At present, an iron and steel plant is under construction in Gliwice. Production is to begin in 1952 with an expected annual output of 1.5 million tons of iron and one million tons of steel. The workers necessary for the new plant (concerning whose future the most varied rumors are circulating in Gorny Slask) will not be housed in the old industrial town. It is planned to expand the town of Tychy, which was predominantly agricultural until a few years ago. Its present population is 30,000; plans provide for the housing of 160,000 people within 2 years.

The Kłodzitzkanal, which connects Gliwice with the Oder harbor of Cosel, is to be extended to the Przemsza River, east of Myslowice, thus connecting the Oder and Wisla rivers.

Another plan concerns the city of Bytom with its population of approximately 100,000 inhabitants. Bytom is situated on large deposits of zinc ore, and expansion of the Scharley mine pit would endanger the city since the deposits are relatively close to the surface. Therefore, the city of Bytom is to disappear. (Hitler's engineers had already planned evacuation of the city.)

The strategic Katowice-Gdynia coal railroad line has been greatly expanded. Various other railroad lines were also electrified, with more to follow.

While conditions are relatively endurable for Gorny Slask industrial workers, those engaged in private business and agriculture complain of the unbearable tax burden. For example, a special tax must be paid for every fruit tree, and is frequently higher than the actual yield. The result is that Gorny Slask farmers are cutting down their orchards.

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